

ORIGIN OF EASTER INTERESTING STORY

With the recurrence of Easter Day the dusty volumes of ancient history of all countries are sought out by students and writers to solve the mystery of its origin. The verdict of all is invariably the same: its origin is an ancient one, but it has been obscured in some form from time immemorial by both pagan and Christian. Yet there remains little doubt but that the observance of the day is a compromise between Christian and pagan in celebration of two separate and distinct events, but which came so close together that the two days were merged. The symbols used in Easter, perhaps a compromise, were originally symbolic.

In the pagan world, the observance was doubtless in celebration of spring, and was especially popular in Northern Asia, where the winters are long and the coming of spring was hailed with delight. It is quite evident that the use of eggs as a symbol of spring would be appropriate as the tools of the old gods still used and in their eggs in the spring. New clothes or eggs as an occasion, of course, is appropriate, symbolizing the budding of the trees and the coming of the flowers. In the Christian world, the observance was identical with the Passover during the early history of the church. Later on the Christians invested the symbol of the egg with the resurrection of Christ. Perhaps this was done by the missionaries who went forth among the pagans and preached the gospel, using the egg as an illustration for the tomb out of which Christ came on the third day. The coloring used, red, in painting the eggs was purified out as representing the blood of Christ. The celebration of Easter among the pagans already having become fixed are everywhere by them, and also it resembled the Passover celebration. The missionaries doubtless adopted the occasion jointly with them and used the symbols effectively in preaching the gospel of Christ.

A study of the origin of the word, perhaps, emphasizes this theory with greater force than any other advanced. The word "Easter" which is used today only among the English and German speaking peoples, is derived from the title of the English goddess, Ostara, Oster, or Easter, who was worshipped by the Saxons as the personification of the springtime, of the east and of the morning. The month of April was dedicated to her, and was called Easter-month among the Saxons and the Angles and is still known among the Germans as Oster-month. This would naturally lead to the belief that the celebration had its origin among the pagans as a celebration of springtime, but a study of the non-Teutonic word still more firmly convinces that it is also a Christian celebration. These nations cling to the Semitic word, which is derived from the Arabic Pascha, "to pass by," which has been translated into English as Passover. Thus the Spanish say Pasqua, the French Paques and the Italian Pasqua; the Dutch, curiously enough with the Scandinavians, use the word Paasch, and Norwegians, Paske; while in England the term still survives in many terms which are applicable to the season, such as the paschal flower, Paschal lamb, or paschal lamb, paschal, pase or paschal eggs, such terms as those remind that Easter is a successor to the Passover, while the word itself carries us back to the advent of spring, suggesting a compromise or merging of two celebrations on the part of Christianity through the pagan world.

The original Christian Easter was a thanksgiving service, lasting eight days which conformed somewhat in length of time to the pagan celebration of the spring festival and approached the duration of the Jewish Passover, but later the eight-day period was cut down to three days, afterward to two and finally became one day as now. Easter was particularly easy to combine with the pagan ceremonies and festivals of the sun at the rising of the sun and the awakening of nature from her long sleep, which typified and became a symbol of the rising of the Son of Righteousness and the resurrection from the grave. A few of the pagan celebrations which took place about May 1 were also shifted to correspond with Easter and many new features were added. It was a time for exuberant joy and holiday observances, all labor ceased for a period, the day courts were closed, laws were given to the poor and slaves were freed. It was also a festive time and as opportunity for banquets and well-being, and Easter Sunday was known as dominica festiva, Sunday of feasts, while in England and on the continent the mists and penitent priests and people alike indulged in expressions of joy and delight. Dances and popular entertainments were held and in some places the clergy, to increase the mirth, recited from the pithy humorous stories and legends for the purpose of exciting the Risus Paschalis or Easter smile. The practice of playing ball with Paschal eggs while the anthem was being sung was finally abandoned as being too riotous for a church, as it was often carried to an extreme, doing damage to church furniture and causing fine paintings and fresco work.

Out of all the ceremonies and observances, both heathen and Christian, of the great spring festival there

MONSTER FREIGHT ENGINE IS IN ROUNDHOUSE

Only One Engine in the World as Large as the 3001, in Local Santa Fe Shops for Slight Repairs.

One of the two largest engines in the world, No. 3001, which has been lying out on the Albuquerque division of the Santa Fe for several days, was sent into the local Santa Fe roundhouse shortly before midnight last night and will be here for a week for minor repairs.

Identification of the hare, or rabbit, part is to be looked for in connection with Easter celebrations to the early Egyptians and Greeks from the hare's association with the moon, as Easter depends on the moon and is, in a sense, a lunar holiday, and the hare was very often seen in times past as a symbol for that planetary body, while the name of hare in Egyptian was Un, which means to ascend or "the upper."

The hare is a nocturnal animal and comes out at night to feed, while the old superstitions, which were mentioned by Pliny, Archelaus and others, contend that both the hare and the moon have the power of changing their sex, as the new moon was masculine and the waning moon was feminine.

Still another connection of the hare with the moon is that its young are born with their eyes open, hence the connection the ancients derived between the hare and the moon, the open eye watches of the skies at night, and the hare, with open eyes, which were hatched never to close, and the old Latin expression, "Somnis leviorum," identified the open-eyed hare as a symbol of the full moon.

In this connection is the prescription in the early English folklore that brains and eyes of a hare were a cure for somnolence. Gradually the hare myth became closely associated with paschal eggs, which were broken to signify the opening of the year. In America the association of rabbits and eggs with Easter has become universal because of the great number of rabbits in the United States and the hare is practically unknown.

The lion is used as a symbol of the resurrection also. It was believed that the lioness brought forth her young dead, and that after three days, the lion by howling over the cub woke them to life. This led representations of the incident to be taken as a fitting symbol of Christ and the resurrection. The lion, in ecclesiastical architecture and symbolism, is generally to be taken as the emblem of the resurrection, and it is the symbol of St. Mark, because his chief object in his gospel was to render an account of Christ's resurrection.

Other peculiar English celebrations which still survive are the heaving or lifting custom in the Easter holidays when the men lift the women on Easter, and the women return the compliment on Easter Tuesday, or the men in the parish go in a body and lift the parson or dignitary who happens to be in evidence at the time.

This is supposed to be a survival of the superstition that the sun is supposed to rise on Easter morning in leaps of joy at the glories of the resurrection morn. From this superstition comes the myth and story of the sun dancing on Easter morning, which is common to the peasants of England and Scotland, and as an omen of good luck is eagerly watched by the women and the girls.

This question as to the sun dancing on Easter was solemnly discussed by some of the old scholars who decided that it might possibly be that the sun might shine more brightly on Easter morning than on any other, but that it was only by accident and largely due to the imagination of the beholden, but the idea of the sun dancing is traced back again to the heathen customs at the festivals of the vernal equinox, when the spectators themselves danced in the celebration.

A list of Easter customs and celebrations would hardly be complete without the mention of the superstition of the wearing of something new on Easter morning in the way of apparel, which to the feminine mind of today, has expanded into all the glories of the Easter hat, and the garments of spring. This seems to have been an ancient custom and derived from the joy of life and the new birth of the year, and in England and on the continent the mists and penitent priests and people alike indulged in expressions of joy and delight. Dances and popular entertainments were held and in some places the clergy, to increase the mirth, recited from the pithy humorous stories and legends for the purpose of exciting the Risus Paschalis or Easter smile. The practice of playing ball with Paschal eggs while the anthem was being sung was finally abandoned as being too riotous for a church, as it was often carried to an extreme, doing damage to church furniture and causing fine paintings and fresco work.

The weather superstitions are numerous and if the wind is in the east

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WHY SHOE SOLES WEAR OUT

Salesman at Alvarado Tells of Treatment of Leather That Causes Foot Apparel to Absorb Moisture Easily.

Have you noticed how much easier it is now to wear out the soles of your shoes than it was, say 10 or 15 years ago? Well, the reason, according to a salesman at the Alvarado yesterday, is that the sole leather nowadays is adulterated. Sole leather is sold by the pound. If tree tannin, Epsom salts and glycerine are injected into the sole, rather the weight is increased. That is to say, what is being done is by the tanning trade. Wet weather comes along. The sole of your shoes become damp. The glue is soluble, as are the Epsom salts. They dissolve. The sole becomes spongy, soon gets wet and in a very short time the shoe is worn out.

It is for that reason," the salesman said, "that American made shoes find such a poor market in Europe. The dealers over there admit that they like our shoes and workmanship better than those of shoes made at home, but they are afraid judges of leather and thus will have no adulterated sole. The matter of loading leather," leather has become known so generally that Dr. Willey, chemist for the department of agriculture, believes a law should be passed to prevent it, just as we now have a law to prevent the adulteration of food.

Of course, there are here and there honest tanners who do not load their sole leather, but there are only a few of them and they are getting scarce every day. Only an expert can tell when a piece of leather has been adulterated, as the customer or himself when he buys a pair of shoes. He has no way of telling whether he is buying 10 per cent of glue and Epsom salts and 90 per cent of leather. I don't see any way of clearing up the matter until the government makes the pure food law applicable to leather, as Dr. Willey suggests."

If you want a stylish home and buggy, see W. L. Trimble, 112 N. 2nd St. Phone No. 2.

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SOCORRO COUNTY FOREST RESERVE MAN FEATURED IN A STORY LAND ENTRIES MADE VALID

Highly Colored Story of Western Life as it Obtained Some Fifteen Years Ago, in Saturday Evening Post.

Persons Who Have Lost Claims By Unfortunate Circumstances May Get Others; Second Filings Allowed

Official publication of the passage by congress of two important land laws, which will give hundreds of entrymen an opportunity to recover their homesteads, have been enacted by the New Mexico law officials.

The of the laws provides that entries erroneously allowed in the national forests be remitted providing last application for reinstatement be filed before July 1, 1912. The law follows.

"If enacted at the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that all homestead entries which have been canceled or relinquished, or are invalid solely because of the erroneous allowance of such entries after the withdrawal of lands for national forest purposes, may be reinstated or allowed to remain intact, but in case of entries heretofore canceled, applications for reinstatement must be filed in the proper local office prior to July 1, 1912.

May Secure Land. "That in all cases where contests imminent under the provisions of the act of May 14, 1890, prior to the withdrawal of the land for national purposes, the qualified successful contestants may be entitled to the benefits of the homestead or desert land laws as though such former entry had not been made, and any person applying for a second homestead or desert land entry under this act shall furnish a description and the date of his former entry."

"Provided, that the provisions of this act shall not apply to any person whose former entry was canceled for fraud, or who relinquished his former entry for a valuable consideration in excess of the filing fees paid by him on his original entry."

The Important Problem

confronting anyone in need of a laxative is not a question of a single action only, but of permanently beneficial effects, which will follow proper efforts to live in a healthful way, with the assistance of Syrup of Pigs and Elixir of Senna, whenever it is required, as it cleanses the system gently yet promptly, without irritation and will therefore always have the preference of all who wish the best of family laxatives.

The combination has the approval of physicians because it is known to be truly beneficial, and because it has given satisfaction to the millions of well-informed families who have used it for many years past.

To get its beneficial effects, always buy the genuine manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only.

In contests brought by persons taking advantage of the misfortune of others to secure their property, time and time again within the past few weeks this policy has been followed.

For Second Entries. This land law which allows second entries follows:

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that any person who, prior to the approval of this act, has made entry under the homestead or desert land laws, but who, subsequently to such entry, from any cause shall have lost, forfeited, or abandoned the same, shall be entitled to the benefits of the homestead or desert land laws as though such former entry had not been made, and any person applying for a second homestead or desert land entry under this act shall furnish a description and the date of his former entry."

"That in all cases where contests imminent under the provisions of the act of May 14, 1890, prior to the withdrawal of the land for national purposes, the qualified successful contestants may be entitled to the benefits of the homestead or desert land laws as though such former entry had not been made, and any person applying for a second homestead or desert land entry under this act shall furnish a description and the date of his former entry."

"Provided, that the provisions of this act shall not apply to any person whose former entry was canceled for fraud, or who relinquished his former entry for a valuable consideration in excess of the filing fees paid by him on his original entry."

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